

Application No.: PCT/IB2004/018362
Amdt. dated 21 January 2006
Preliminary Amendment before entry into U.S. National Phase (PCT)

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

New Listing Of Claims:

File reference: CJELI04

Title of the Invention: APPARATUS FACILITATING WALKING IN SKI BOOTS

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CLAIMS:

5 I claim:

1. An apparatus that attaches to the underside of ski boots that assists walking while wearing ski boots, comprising:
 - a. a roughly flat-bottomed footbed made from resiliently elastic material that adds springiness to the walking motion; and
 - b. an attachment means at the front and rear of said footbed for removably attaching said footbed to the underside of ski boots.
2. An apparatus that attaches to the underside of ski boots that assists walking while wearing ski boots, comprising:
 - a. a footbed made from resiliently elastic material that adds springiness to the walking motion, said resiliently elastic material comprised of one or more members of elastomeric material connectedly attached together; and
 - b. an attachment means at the front and rear of said footbed for removably attaching said footbed to the underside of ski boots.
3. The apparatus, as in Claim 1 or 2, further comprising one or more elastomeric tread members connected to the underside of said footbed, which provide traction while walking.
4. A roughly-flat, sandal-like apparatus that attaches to the underside of ski boots that assists walking while wearing ski boots, comprising:
 - a. a footbed made from resiliently elastic material that adds springiness to the walking motion, said resiliently elastic material comprised of one or more members of elastomeric material connectedly attached together;
 - b. an attachment means at the front and rear of said footbed for removably attaching said footbed to the underside of ski boots; and
 - c. one or more elastomeric tread members connectedly attached to the underside of said footbed, which provide traction while walking.

5. An apparatus that attaches to the underside of ski boots that assists walking while wearing ski boots, comprising:

- a. a footbed made from resiliently elastic material that adds springiness to the walking motion, said resiliently elastic material comprised of one or more members of elastomeric material connectedly attached together; and
- b. said footbed having an attachment means for removably attaching said footbed to the underside of ski boots; and
- c. an elastomeric tread connectedly attached to the roughly flat underside of said footbed, which provides traction while walking.

10 6. An apparatus that attaches to the underside of ski boots that assists walking while wearing ski boots, comprising:

- a. a footbed with a connectedly attached member in its heel area made from resiliently elastic material that adds springiness to the walking motion;
- b. said footbed having an attachment means for removably attaching said footbed to the underside of ski boots; and
- c. one or more elastomeric tread members connected to the roughly flat underside of said footbed, which provide traction while walking.

15 7. An apparatus that attaches to the underside of ski boots that assists walking while wearing ski boots, comprising:

- a. a footbed which is roughly flat-bottomed;
- b. an attachment means at the front and rear of said footbed for removably attaching said footbed to the underside of ski boots, and;
- c. one or more elastomeric tread members connected to the underside of said footbed, which provide traction while walking and add springiness to the walking motion.

20 8. The apparatus, as in Claim 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, or 7, said attachment means further comprising:

- a. a clip at one end of said footbed which engages the front or rear edge of the sole of a ski boot; and
- b. a lip of rigid material on the inside opposite end of said footbed, opposite said clip, which fits over the upper edge of the end of a ski boot's sole.

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9. The apparatus, as in Claim 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, or 7, said attachment means further comprising a rigid heel cup and a rigid toe cup each connectedly attached to said footbed at each end of said footbed, said cups capable of fitting around the protruding ends of a ski boot sole and gripping said ski boot sole.
10. The apparatus, as in Claim 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, or 7, said footbed having a greater thickness toward its toe end than toward its heel end.
11. The apparatus, as in Claim 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, or 7, said footbed having a greater thickness toward its toe end, said thickness scribing an arc between the upper surface of said footbed and the lower surface of said footbed, said arc being less than fifteen degrees.